



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Patent Application

Applicant(s) Eide et al.
Docket No.: YOR920000648US1
Serial No.: 09/732,122
Filing Date: December 7, 2000
Group: 2654
Examiner: Abul K. Azad

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited on this date with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Signature: Tina Maurice Date: August 11, 2005

Title: Method and Apparatus for Producing Natural
Sounding Pitch Contours in a Speech Synthesizer

DECLARATION OF TINA MAURICE

I, Tina Maurice, hereby declare as follows:

1. I am currently employed by Ryan, Mason & Lewis, LLP, 1300 Post Road, Suite 205, Fairfield, CT 06430 as an Office Manager.
2. I prepared the transmittal paperwork associated with the Response to Office Action in the above-identified patent application, including the return postcard.
3. Kevin M. Mason signed and dated the above-identified Response to Office Action, including the Transmittal Letter, on March 28, 2005.
4. I signed the Certificate of Mailing on March 28, 2005 (see attached copy of response).
5. Once the documents were executed by Mr. Mason, I photocopied the executed documents and prepared the original documents for submission to the United States Patent and Trademark Office by first class mail.
6. The original documents, including the return postcard for submission to the United States Patent and Trademark Office were accidentally placed in the enveloped designated to the client. The photocopies of the original documents were accidentally placed in the envelope designated to the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

7. Approximately on March 30, 2005, our client, IBM Corporation telephoned and informed us of the mix up in the packages. They stated that instead of receiving a photocopy of the submission, they received the originals, including the return postcard.

8. I telephoned the Patent Office and spoke with someone from the inventor's assistant dept. and inquired whether the Response would be processed since it was a photocopy and did not include the actual return postcard. I was told that the Response would be processed with the exception that we would not get a stamped return postcard due to the fact that the package only included a photocopy and not the actual return postcard. It was suggested that I follow up with a status inquiry at a later date to confirm the Patent Office receipt of the Response.

9. Based on the above information received from the Patent Office, a status check was conducted on May 10, 2005 with the Patent Office. At this time, the Patent Office confirmed receipt of the Response. (Please see attached memorandum, which is a photocopy from our filed.)

10. On approximately July 24, 2005, Examiner Azad telephoned and stated that he had not received our response to the outstanding Office Action dated December 27, 2004. I informed him that the Response was mailed on March 28, 2005 and the Patent Office receipt of the Response was confirmed on May 10, 2005. I also explained to him the mix up in the mailing of the packages. He suggested that I faxed a copy of the Response to him at 571-273-7599.

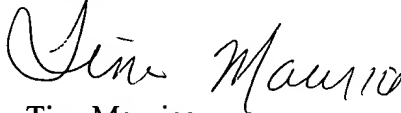
11. **I hereby again certify that the attached Response to Office Action and related documents were deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail on March 28, 2005, addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231.**

12. The March 28, 2005 mailing is also evidenced by the attached postal receipt. Our billing records establish that the package was mailed to the Patent Office (zip code 22313) on March 28, 2005. The mailing to zip code 10598, as indicated on the postal receipt, corresponds to the copies of the submitted Response to Office Action that was sent to the client, IBM Corporation, Thomas J. Watson Research Center, P.O. Box 218, Yorktown Heights, NY 105984, simultaneously with the mailing of the

attached documents to the Patent Office. Also evidenced by the postal receipt, only two packages were mailed on March 28, 2005 and both packages were identical in weight with zip codes that correspond to the Patent Office and IBM Corporation.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Tina Maurice".

Date: August 11, 2005

Tina Maurice
Office Manager
Ryan, Mason & Lewis, LLP
1300 Post Road, Suite 205
Fairfield, CT 06824
(203) 255-6560